

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Page 1, between lines 2 and 3 (underneath the title), insert – Background of the Invention –; and

Page 3, revise lines 9-19 to read as follows:

–This problem is solved according to the invention in conjunction with the features ~~of claim 1~~ in that the multiple telescopic tube is provided with a clamping device which has a clamping engagement element. This engagement element may be brought into engagement with the outer surfaces of the inner tubes. On loading of the multiple telescopic tube in a longitudinal clamping direction, and thereby actuating clamping, the clamping device prevents displacement of the inner tubes relative to the outer tubes in this longitudinal clamping direction, whilst while the displaceability in the opposing longitudinal direction is maintained.